

IN THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Canceled)

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11. (Currently Amended) An operation and display section of an operation unit for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a touch-screen panel substantially centered on the operation unit;

numeral keys and an enter key located at a right-hand side of the touch-screen panel;

E1 a clear/stop key located to a right hand side of the numeral keys and the enter key;

a start key located to a right hand side of the clear/stop key and having a larger diameter than the numeral keys;

a program key, a reset/preheat key, and an interrupt key located above the numeral keys and the enter key;

a trial copy key located beneath the interrupt key and on the right hand side of the numeral keys and the enter key;

a multi-functional set/counter key located to a top left hand side of the touch screen panel, the set/counter key configured to vary initial set values and operating conditions in accordance with conditions of use; and

a copy key, a copy server key, and a printer key located below the set/counter key and mode selecting means, located to a left-hand side of the touch-screen panel, for selecting operational modes of the image forming apparatus.

12-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The operation and display section of claim 42 ~~44~~, wherein the reset/preheat key is arranged on the left-hand side of and is independent of the interrupt key.

27. (Currently Amended) The operation and display section of claim 42 ~~44~~, wherein the program key is positioned on the left-hand side of and is independent of the reset/preheat key.

E1  
28. (Currently Amended) The operation and display section of claim 42 ~~44~~, wherein the trial copy key is arranged above the start key.

29. (Currently Amended) The operation and display section of claim 42 ~~44~~, wherein the copy key, the copy server key, and the printer key are arranged in a vertical array.

30-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having an operation unit, wherein an operation and display section of the operation unit comprises:

a touch-screen panel substantially centered on the operation unit;

numeral keys and an enter key located at a right-hand side of the touch-screen panel;

a start key having a large diameter than the numeral keys; and

mode selecting means located to a left-hand side of the touch-screen panel for

selecting operational modes of the image forming apparatus.

~~a touch-screen panel; and~~

~~a multifunctional set/counter key arranged at a top left of the touch-screen panel on the operation and display section of the operation unit, the set/counter key configured to vary initial set values and operating conditions in accordance with conditions of use.~~

37. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having an operation unit, wherein an operation and display section of the operation unit comprises:

a touch-screen panel;

a multifunctional set/counter key, the set/counter key configured to vary initial set values and operating conditions in accordance with conditions of use; and

Q1 a copy key, a copy server key, and a printer key each arranged at a left-hand side of the touch-screen panel, below the set/counter key on the operation and display section of the operation unit.

38. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 37, wherein the copy key, the copy server key, and the printer key are arranged in a vertical array.

39. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having an operation unit, wherein an operation and display section of the operation unit comprises:

a touch-screen panel;

numeral keys;

an enter key;

a clear/stop key arranged at a right-hand side of and independently of the numeral keys and the enter key;

a program key, a reset/preheat key, and an interrupt key arranged above the numeral keys and the enter key;

a trial key arranged at a right-hand side of and independently of the numeral keys and the enter key;

Q1 a multifunctional set/counter key arranged at a top left of a touch screen-panel, the set/counter key configured to vary initial set values and operating conditions in accordance with conditions of use; and

a copy key, a copy server key, and a printer key arranged at a left-hand side of the touch-screen panel, below the set/counter key.

40. (New) The operation and display section of claim 11, further comprising a clear/stop key located to a right-hand side of the numeral keys and the enter key.

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41. (New) The operation and display section of claim 40, wherein the start key is located to a right-hand side of the clear/stop key and has a larger diameter than the numeral keys.

Q2 42. (New) The operation and display section of claim 41, further comprising a program key, a reset/preheat key, and an interrupt key located above the numeral keys and the enter key.

43. (New) The operation and display section of claim 42, further comprising a trial copy key located above the numeral keys and the enter key.

44. (New) The operation and display section of claim 43, further comprising a set/counter key located to a top left-hand side of the touch screen panel, the set/count key

configured to vary initial set values and operating conditions in accordance with conditions of use.

45. (New) The operation and display section of claim 44, wherein the mode selecting means comprises a copy key, a copy server key and a printer key located below the set/counter key.

46. (New) The operation and display section of claim 36, wherein the mode selecting means comprises a copy key, a copy server key, and a printer key located below the set/counter key.)

47. (New) The operation and display section of claim 11, wherein the operational modes of the image forming apparatus include a copier mode, a copy server mode, and a printer mode.